W.P. Whitsett Lecture Series

Iris H. W. Engstrand
University of San Diego

"The 18th Century Enlightenment Comes to California"

California State University, Northridge
University Club
April 11, 1997
8:00 P.M.

Iris H.W. Engstrand is a leading specialist in the history of the American West, especially the Spanish colonial period. She holds a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in history from the University of Southern California. Professor Engstrand has been active in a number of professional associations including the California History Society, the Historical Society of Southern California, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the San Diego Historical Society and the Western History Association. She has been a Council Member of the WHA since 1991. Professor Engstrand's academic honors include the University of San Diego Award for Faculty Achievement, the San Diego Historical Society Award of Merit, the California Historical Society Award of Merit, and fellowships from the American Philosophical Society , the Haynes Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Professor Engstrand is author of over 25 articles and eight books including *William Wolfskill: Frontier Trapper to California Ranchero, 1798–1866* (1965), *San Diego: California's Cornerstone* (1980), *Serra's San Diego: Father Junipero Serra and California's Beginnings* (1982), *San Diego: Gateway to the Pacific* (1982), and *Documents for the History of California and the West* (editor) (1992). Several of her articles have focused on the Spanish presence and legacies in the Southwest, most notably "Land Grant Problems in the Southwest: The Spanish and Mexican Heritage" in the *New Mexico Historical Review* (October 1978), "California Ranchos: Their Hispanic Heritage" in the *Southern California Quarterly* (Fall 1985), and "An Enduring Legacy: California Ranchos in Historical Perspective" in *Journal of the West* (July 1988). Her latest book, *Quest for Empire* (1996) is co-authored with Donald Cutter, her mentor at USC, and offers an examination of Spanish colonial California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

During the past decade Professor Engstrand has focused on Spanish scientific activities in the New World that exhibited dimensions of the Spanish enlightenment. Reviewers of Professor Engstrand's Spanish Scientists to the New World: The Eighteenth Century Expeditions (1980) commend her use of Spanish and Mexican archives to assess the major Spanish scientific expeditions in the late 18th century and their collections and reports on plant and animal classification, mineral types and ethnology. In several subsequent articles Professor Engstrand has continued to evaluate Enlightenment activity in the New World, most notably in "The Enlightenment in Spain: Influences on New World Policy," *The Americas*, Vol. XLI (April 1985) and in "Mexico's Pioneer Naturalist and the Spanish Enlightenment," *The Historian*, Vol. LIII (Autumn 1990). Last year Professor Engstrand traveled to Madrid on a Fullbright to prepare a biography of José Mariano Mozino, one of the leading Mexican naturalists that visited California in the late 18th century. Professor Engstrand's W.P. Whitsett lecture will examine the efforts of Mozino and other naturalists in California and she will illustrate the lecture with slides of original watercolor paintings of fauna and flora from Mexico and California.

For lecture information: (818) 677-3566

The Department of History
California State University, Northridge

invites you to attend the 1997

W. P. Whitsett California Lecture

by

Iris H. W. Engstrand

on

"The 18th Century Enlightenment Comes to California"

Introduced by
Dr. Janet R. Fireman
President-Elect of the Western History Association

Friday, April 11, 1997
at 8:00 p.m. in the
University Club

You are also invited to a reception and dinner before the lecture. The reception begins at 5:30 P.M., with dinner at 6:30 P.M.

(As dinner seating is limited, reservations are required. To reserve, send a payment of $25.00 per dinner—with entrée choice—to the History Department by April 7. Make checks payable to CSUN Foundation. Entrée choices: Prime Rib, Chicken Dijon, or Spinach Ricotta Ravioli.)

The W. P. Whitsett California Lecture Series was founded in 1986 as part of the Whitsett Endowment at California State University, Northridge, to honor the memory of William Paul Whitsett and his pioneering role in the history of the San Fernando Valley.

The Whitsett Lectures are designed to encourage a broader understanding and appreciation of the history, the development, and the future prospects of California and the West.

Sponsors of the lectures are the Whitsett Endowment and the Whitsett Committee of the Department of History.

The W. P. Whitsett Lectures:

1987	Glenn Dumke, Inaugural Lecture
1988	Andrew Rolle
1989	Kevin Starr
1990	William Goetzman
1991	Doyce Nunis
1992	Martin Ridge
1993	Gloria Lothrop
1994	David Weber
1995	Richard Griswold del Castillo
1996	Donald Worster
1997	Iris Engstrand
1998	Richard White

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